

**SPACE BOOSTER . . .** Lt. Col. Joe D. Johnston, Thor Deputy Program Director, Space Systems Division, tells Susan Foster, Miss Torrance, how the solid-fueled, strap-on motors boost the Thor-Agena into orbit. The 76-foot Thor-Agena will be displayed at the 8th annual Armed Forces Day parade and celebration here May 19 and 20.

# Workhorse of Space Gets Armed Forces Day Salute

A workhorse rarely rates kudos — and maybe only the Air Force could love Thor — but its contributions to space technology can never be overrated.

The Air Force's Thor missile. Known as the "C-47 of the Space Age," has been the space booster for almost every major unmanned flight the United States has launched. Coupled with the Agena satellite, the Thor has racked up an impressive number of firsts for the Air Force and NASA, including the Discoverer program in which the first re-entry of a vehicle was made.

The Thor-Agena will be a 76-foot-tall white beacon drawing crowds to the exhibit area during the eighth Annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration in Torrance May 19-20. Thor-Agena will be on public display at the Torrance Civic Center, according to Capt. Lloyd Edwards, Air Force Orientation Group, Norton Air Force Base.

**THOR ACTUALLY** started out as an intermediate range ballistic missile in the late 1950s. However, modifications were made and it became a space booster, sending Pioneer I 71,300 miles into space in 1958. Thor hurled Explorer XI into earth orbit, and launched Pioneer V into the world's first solar orbit, revealed Col. Joseph L. Hamilton, Deputy for Launch Vehicles, Space Systems Division.

Paired with Agena, Thor's list of accomplishments grew — it was the first polar orbiting satellite, the first to be stabilized on all three axes, the first to be placed in a circular orbit, and the first to be controlled on orbit.

**THE FIRST** pictures of earth from space were taken by cameras in a Thor re-entry vehicle, Col. Hamilton said.

In the fields of weather and communication, Thor has again proved the workhorse sending up Echo, the huge balloon seen by millions, Nimbus and Tiros weather satellites, and Syncom, Early Bird, and Telstar communications satellites.

With larger tanks and solid rocket motors attached for increased thrust and payload capabilities, Thor will continue to be the workhorse for unmanned experimental space flights stated Col. Robert E. Gay, Director of Medium Launch Vehicles program, SSD.

ALL SERVICES will be represented in Torrance at the Armed Forces Day Parade, one of the largest such events in the Nation. U. S. Congressman F. Edward Hebert, Committee on Armed Services, will be Grand Marshal. The two-day celebration is expected to draw many thousands of people from Southern California.

Sponsors of the event are the City of Torrance and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

## Al Hirt To Play At ECC

Trumpet showman Al Hirt will appear at El Camino College Wednesday, May 10, at 8:30 p.m. for a concert in the college's Murdock Stadium.

Reserved seats for the one-night show are priced at \$4 and \$3.25. General admission is \$2.50. Tickets are available in the college bookstore.

Hirt, known mostly for his jazz music, began his career as a classical musician, studying at the Conservatory of Cincinnati. He traveled with many name bands following his discharge from the Army after World War II, but returned to his native New Orleans when he became home-sick.

He worked at many odd jobs in New Orleans, but began playing in local nightclubs. Hirt was rediscovered while playing at a Bourbon Street club and has since appeared in the nation's famous clubs and on top television shows.

Hirt earned his first gold record — denoting sales of a million recordings — with his recordings of "Java." Since then, he has won numerous awards and honors, including the "Artist of the Year" title for 1965.



AL HIRT To Visit Campus

## Kuchel Names New Press Aide

C. Peter Gall, 31-year-old Manhattan Beach newsman, has been named press secretary by U. S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel. Gall, who worked as a reporter for the Pasadena Independent and Star News and then the Wall Street Journal, succeeds Warren B. Francis who will continue on Kuchel's staff, the senator said.



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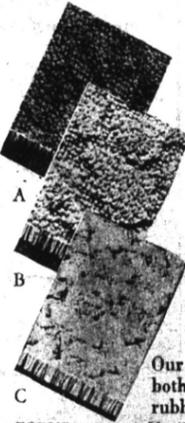
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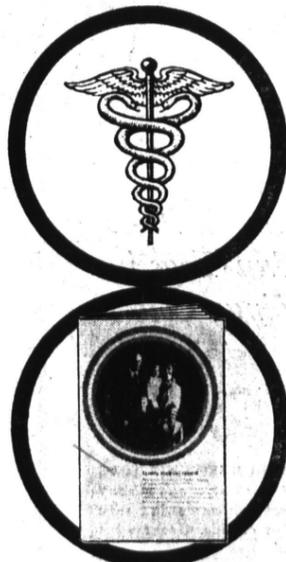
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